

Appl. No. 09/891,672
Amdt. dated March 9, 2004
Reply to Office action of December 9, 2003

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and further consideration of the subject application is respectfully requested.

Claims 21-24 29-35, and Claim 39 are pending. Independent Claims 21 and 39 have been amended to recite that the catalyst used for removing mono-olefins from a aromatic feedstream is self-bound MCM-22. Support for this amendment is found in several portions of the application as well as Claims 38 and 40, now cancelled.

Rejection under 35 USC 103

The presently claimed invention relates to a process for reducing bromine reactive hydrocarbon contaminants from an aromatic hydrocarbon feedstream. Unless removed, these contaminants can interfere with subsequent processing of the aromatic hydrocarbon feedstreams. The process is carried out by contacting a aromatic hydrocarbon feedstream having negligible diene level with a catalyst comprising self-bound MCM-22 under conditions sufficient to remove the mono-olefin bromine reactive contaminants. Fig. 2 of the present application shows that a catalyst comprising self-bound MCM-22 results in a process that is unexpectedly stable in the removal of bromine reactive contaminations from aromatic hydrocarbon streams.

The Office Action states that the claims are rejected based on three references, either alone or in combination, i.e., EP 0780458 (EP Application), U. S. Patent 4,954,325 (Ruben et al.), and U.S. Patent 5,417,844 (Boitiaux et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed as the presently pending claims are submitted to be patentable over these references.

The EP Application merely involves upgrading a petroleum fraction containing aromatics and olefins and makes no mention with respect to the use of self-bound MCM-22, or the amount of diene present to the petroleum fraction being treated.

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Rubin et al. and Boitiaux et al. do not cure the deficiencies of the EP Application. Rubin et al. does not disclose or suggest self-bound MCM-22, removing olefins from a feed, or the presence of or absence of dienes from the stream to be treated. Bortiaux et al. does not disclose or suggest the use of self-bound MCM-22 or removing diolefins and then subsequently treating the feed to remove mono-olefins.

Withdrawal of the rejections based on the EP Application, Rubin et al. and Boitiaux et al., either alone or in combination, is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance and favorable action thereon is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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